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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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Puzzled about
how your benefits
will be affected
by working?

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We
can
help!

BENEFITS PLANNING PROJECT



What is the Benefits Planning Project?

We are a federally funded program created to help individuals receiving SSI/SSDI make informed choices about going to work.

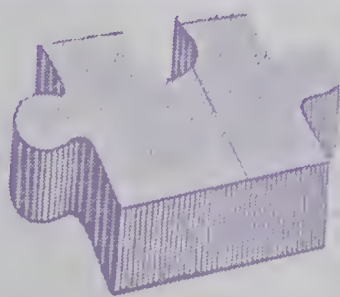
If you are interested in getting a job, we will help you understand how working will affect your benefits.

We will explain some work incentives, such as the one that allows you to keep your Medicaid or Medicare benefits while you work.

Our Benefits Planning Project will give you the information you need to make the best choice about your future.

Who is eligible?

Anyone who gets Social Security disability benefits (SSI/SSDI) and wants to return to work is eligible to get free benefits planning services.

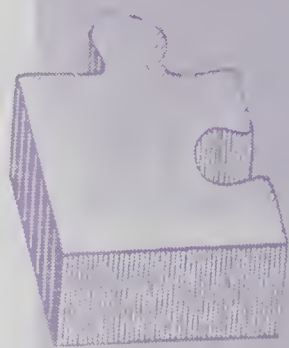


How can a benefits specialist help?

Your benefits specialist can:

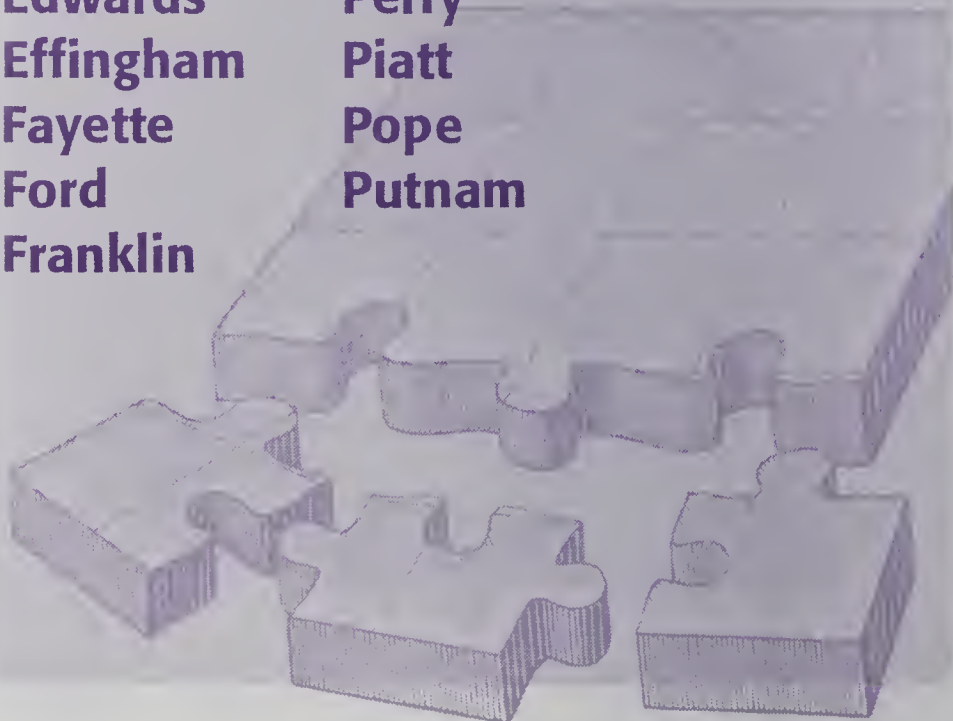
- Explain how ALL of your benefits will be affected if you go to work. These benefits include SSI/SSDI, subsidized housing, food stamps, welfare benefits, Medicaid and Medicare;
- Give you a written report that shows how earnings from your job will change your benefits;
- Tell you about other community services that can help you;
- Be available to answer any questions you have about your benefits, even after you go to work;
- Provide ongoing benefits management, which can include a new analysis if you get a raise; and
- Make a referral to help you resolve any legal barriers related to employment, such as employer accommodations that will help you do your job.

What area do we serve?



**Our Benefits Planning
Project serves 60 counties
throughout Illinois.
Our service area is:**

Bond	Gallatin	Richland
Boone	Hamilton	Rock Island
Bureau	Hardin	Saline
Carroll	Iroquois	Shelby
Champaign	Jasper	Stark
Christian	Jefferson	Stephenson
Clark	Jo Davies	Tazwell
Clay	LaSalle	Vermilion
Clinton	Lawrence	Wabash
Coles	Lee	Washington
Cook (Northern Suburban only)	Livingston	Wayne
Crawford	Logan	White
Cumberland	Marion	Whiteside
DeKalb	Marshall	Williamson
DeWitt	McLean	Winnebago
Douglas	Montgomery	Woodford
Edgar	Ogle	
Edwards	Peoria	
Effingham	Perry	
Fayette	Piatt	
Ford	Pope	
Franklin	Putnam	



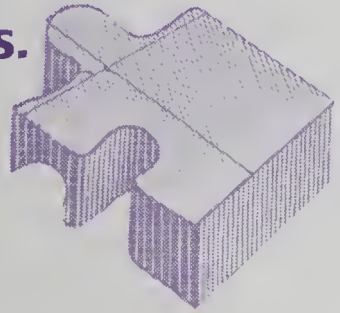
**For more information on the
Benefits Planning Project, call:**

1-800-807-6962 (voice)

1-866-444-8013 (TTY)

e-mail:

benplan@dhs.state.il.us.



You can also write to:

**Benefits Planning Project
Illinois Department of Human Services/
Office of Rehabilitation Services
623 E. Adams, P. O. Box 19429
Springfield, IL 62794-9429**

**A large print or Braille translation
of this pamphlet will be provided
upon request.**

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by a grant from the Social Security
Administration. The contents of this
publication are the sole responsibility
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For more information:

Call or visit your local Department of Human Services office.

If you have questions about any Department of Human Services (DHS) program, call or visit your local DHS office. We will answer your questions. If you do not know where your local DHS office is or if you are unable to go there, you may call the automated helpline 24 hours a day at:

1-800-252-8635

1-800-447-6404 (TTY)

You may speak to a representative between:

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday (except state holidays)

For answers to your questions, you may also write:

Illinois Department of Human Services
Bureau of Customer and Provider Assistance
425 South 4th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Visit our web site at:

www.state.il.us/agency/dhs



Programs, activities and employment opportunities in the Illinois Department of Human Services are open and accessible to any individual or group without regard to age, sex, race, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin or religion. The department is an equal opportunity employer and practices affirmative action and reasonable accommodation programs.

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